

From: julesa
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 4:05pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to object to the proposed final judgement in the Microsoft antitrust case. I believe the proposed settlement falls far short of punishing Microsoft for their illegal past behavior, and will fail to prevent illegal behavior in the future.

The judgement does not mention anything about limiting Microsoft's behavior in regard to newer products such as the Xbox and .Net technologies. It has been established that Microsoft has repeatedly abused its power upon gaining a significant share of a given market. Microsoft will attempt to extend its monopoly into home entertainment systems and Internet commerce technologies. I believe the settlement must address Microsoft's behavior in these areas.

Because they have significantly overcharged consumers for their products for several years now, they have a large war chest which will give them the resources to outcompete other players in any market they choose to focus on. How do you remedy that? It's a tough question, but simply placing limits on what Microsoft can do with specific products, especially just their older ones, is surely insufficient. They will simply develop new products (perhaps using ideas from old ones) which don't fall under the judgement's restrictions.

A revised judgement should include an effective enforcement mechanism, unlike the proposed final judgement. It should require that Microsoft publish the specifications to file format standards such as Word, Excel, and Powerpoint documents, and allow anyone to write a program that can read these formats. That would allow consumers to use whatever product they like to communicate with each other. It should limit what Microsoft can do in ANY market, not just markets in which they have already crushed the competition illegally.

Thank you for your time.

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